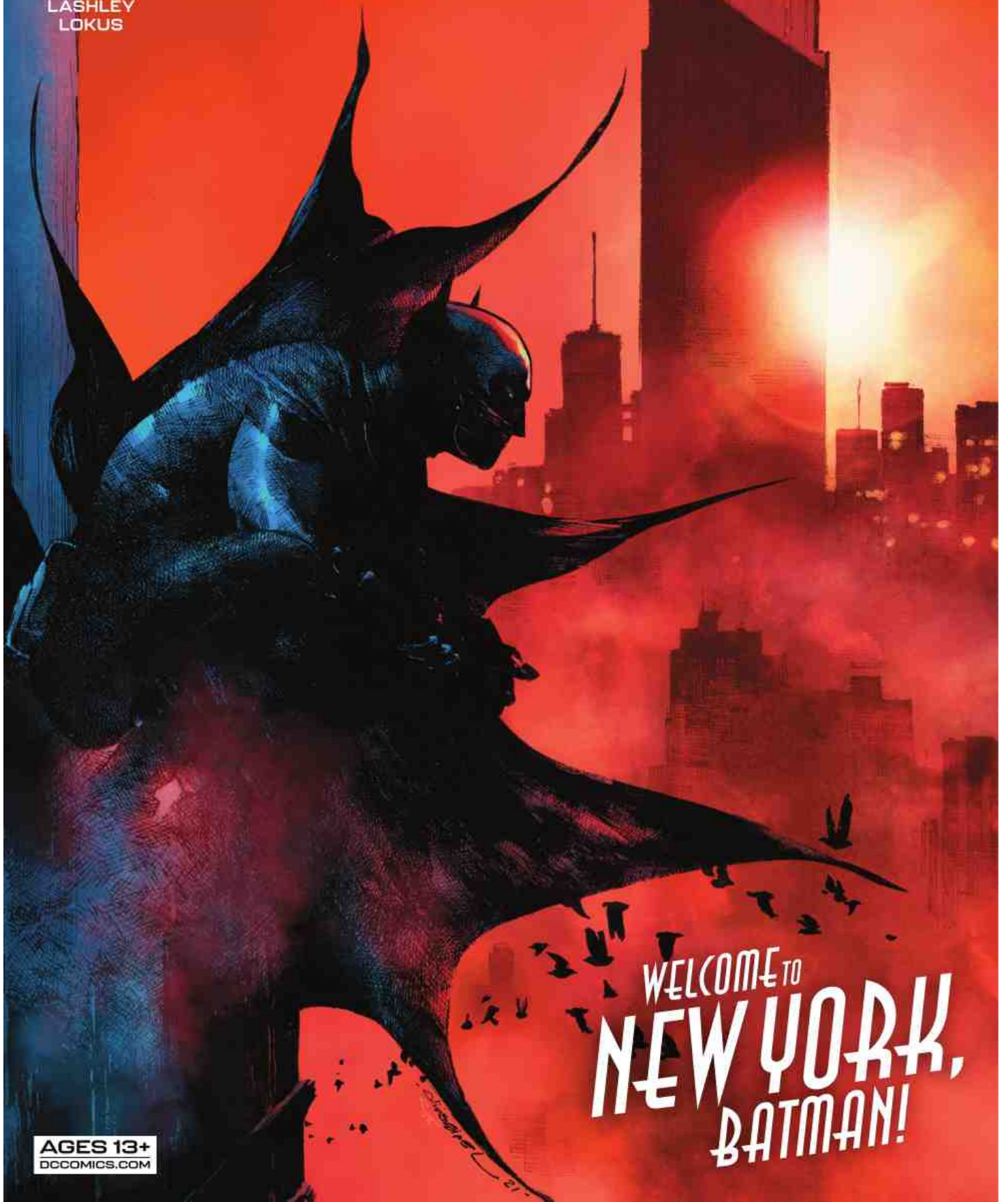




RIDLEY
LASHLEY
LOKUS

I AM BATMAN™



WELCOME TO
**NEW YORK,
BATMAN!**

AGES 13+
DCCOMICS.COM



Thirteen-year-old Oliver Queen is about to get a crash course in being a hero.

GREEN ARROW STRANDED

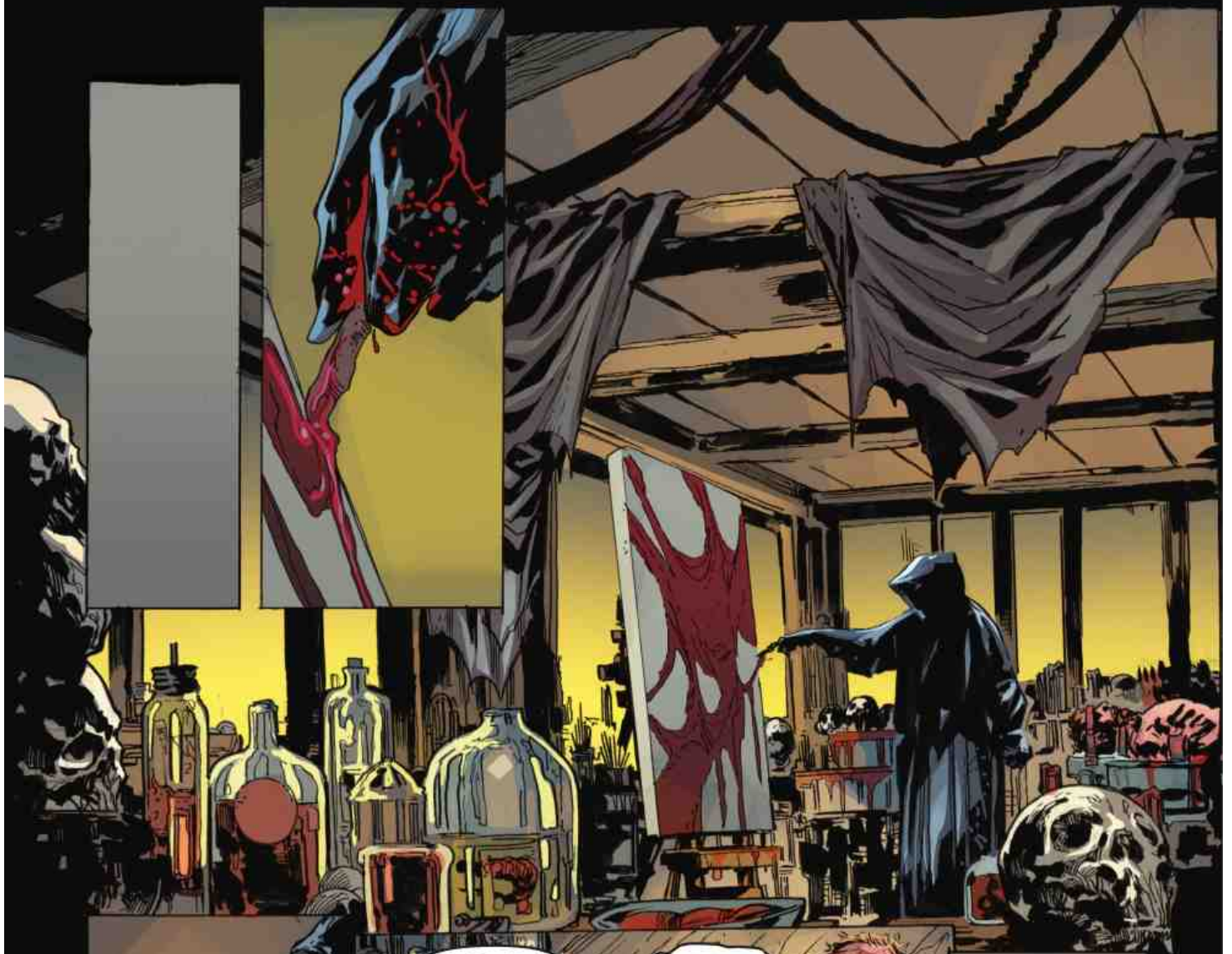


A new graphic
novel for kids

March

written by
**BRENDAN
DENEEN**

illustrated by
BELL HOSALLA



LET'S MAKE
SOMETHING
BEAUTIFUL.

...PLEASE...



YOU'RE
WELCOME.

"OKAY, WHAT AM
I LOOKING AT?"

"WELL, MR.
MAYOR, WHAT
YOU'RE LOOKING
AT IS..."



...BATMAN.

THAT'S
NOT THE **REAL**
BATMAN. THAT
PERSON IS,
UH...

YOU
KNOW...BLACK.
UHH...AFRICAN-
AMER--

I BELIEVE
THE CURRENT
PHRASEOLOGY
IS BIPOC.

YES,
SIR, MR.
MAYOR.



AND THIS?

SECURITY CAMERA FOOTAGE OF BATMAN BREAKING UP A GANG SHOOTOUT IN MIDTOWN.

HMM. FIVE SHOOTERS, AND NOT ONE OF THEM COULD HIT HIM. HOW DOES A GUY MOVE THAT FAST?



WE'VE GOT A BUNCH OF THESE. CIVILIAN-RECORDED CELL PHONE FOOTAGE OF BATMAN TAKING OUT AN EXTREMIST IN TIMES SQUARE.

WHAT KIND OF EXTREMIST?

THE KIND WITH AN ASSAULT WEAPON WHO'S LOOKING TO KILL PEOPLE. BATMAN SHUT HIM DOWN.

THE BATMAN IN GOTHAM CITY'S A GREAT DEAL MORE CAMERA SHY.

THIS BATMAN SEEMS TO WANT TO BE SEEN, MR. MAYOR.



"...WHY THE HELL COULDN'T HE
GO TO LOS ANGELES?"

BILLIONAIRES' ROW, MANHATTAN.

JACE...

LOOK AT
YOU. STILL
CAN'T GET
USED TO
THE CLEAN
FACE.

NEW
CITY, NEW
LOOK,
MA.

THE WAY
YOU'RE STARING
OUT THE WINDOW,
I GET THE SENSE
YOU DON'T LIKE
THE VIEW.

YOU KNOW
HOW I FEEL
ABOUT MONEY
AND PRIVILEGE,
MOM.

NOTHING SAYS
"WE'RE NOT LIKE YOU"
LIKE LIVING ON THE
84TH FLOOR OF A
BUILDING ON
BILLIONAIRES' ROW
IN MANHATTAN.

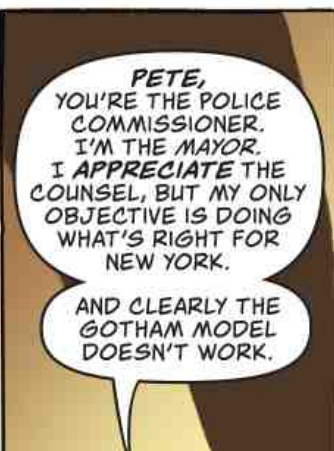
WE AREN'T
LIKE OTHER
PEOPLE,
JACE.

OTHER
PEOPLE DON'T
HAVE TO WORRY
ABOUT *SECURITY*.
A WALK-UP IN
BROOKLYN WASN'T
GOING TO
WORK.

AND
MORE THAN
THAT...

A close-up of Mayor Carmichael, an older man with a white mustache and blue eyes, looking slightly to the side with a serious expression.

I DON'T SEE
WORKING WITH
MASKS AS BEING
A GOOD IDEA
AT ALL.

A close-up of Pete, a man with a beard and mustache, looking towards the Mayor.

PETE,
YOU'RE THE POLICE
COMMISSIONER.
I'M THE MAYOR.
I APPRECIATE THE
COUNSEL, BUT MY ONLY
OBJECTIVE IS DOING
WHAT'S RIGHT FOR
NEW YORK.

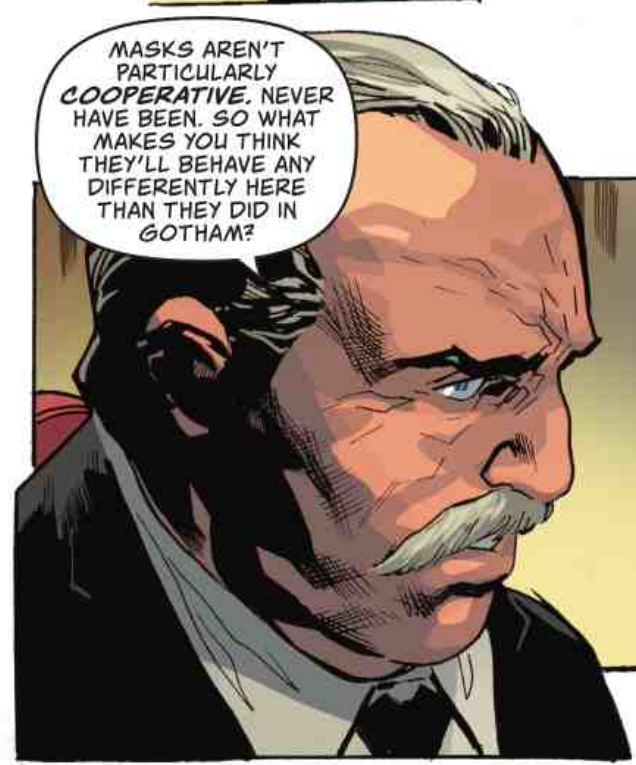
AND CLEARLY THE
GOTHAM MODEL
DOESN'T WORK.

A medium shot showing Mayor Carmichael on the left and Deputy Mayor Carmichael on the right. The Deputy Mayor is wearing a suit and glasses, and is gesturing with his hands while speaking.

CARMICHAEL,
YOU'RE DEPUTY
MAYOR FOR
CITY AFFAIRS.
THIS ONE'S
ON YOU.

I WANT IT
HANDLED, AND
HANDLED IN A
WAY THAT IT
DOESN'T GO
SOUTH.

YES,
SIR, MR.
MAYOR.

A close-up of Mayor Carmichael, looking slightly to the side with a serious expression.

MASKS AREN'T
PARTICULARLY
COOPERATIVE. NEVER
HAVE BEEN. SO WHAT
MAKES YOU THINK
THEY'LL BEHAVE ANY
DIFFERENTLY HERE
THAN THEY DID IN
GOTHAM?

A close-up of Pete, looking towards the Mayor.

BECAUSE
I'M NOT
GIVING HIM
A CHOICE.

AND HE'S
NOT GIVING
US ONE.

THE
BATMAN IN
NEW YORK.

I
MEAN...

"RIGHT NOW YOU AND I AND TIFFANY NEED TO BE TOGETHER FOR TAM WHILE SHE GOES THROUGH PHYSICAL THERAPY."

"WE NEED TO BE A FAMILY. WE NEED TO SUPPORT HER..."



I KNOW, BUT I'M STILL DOING PROJECTS FOR DAD AT FOXTECH. AND TO BE REAL...

...I KINDA DO MY BEST WORK AT NIGHT.

YOU KNOW YOU CAN COME AND GO AS YOU PLEASE. AND WHEN TAM'S BETTER, IF YOU'RE STILL UNCOMFORTABLE HERE...



NEW YORK IS A BIG CITY, JACE. AND YOU'RE YOUR OWN MAN. I TRUST YOU TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT.

THAT'S ALL I WANT, MA...



TO DO THE RIGHT THING.









BATMAN...WE'LL
TAKE IT FROM
HERE.

REALLY,
OFFICER?
THREE AND
A HALF
MINUTES TO
RESPOND TO
A "SHOTS
FIRED"
CALL?



WE'RE UNDER-
RESOURCED.
NEIGHBORHOODS
LIKE THIS...THE
DEPARTMENT
DOESN'T SEE THEM
AS A PRIORITY.

YEAH,
WELL...
I DO.

AND WE
APPRECIATE
YA. PEOPLE
OUT HERE
DESERVE
THE SAME
PROTECTION
PEOPLE GET IN
MANHATTAN.



BUT TELL
THAT TO THE
COMMISSIONER.

NOT SURE
HE CARES ABOUT
MY OPINION. BUT
CONSIDER ME
A RESOURCE.

MOST
OF US
ALREADY
DO.

AND,
BATMAN...



WELCOME TO
NEW YORK.

"HOW ARE THINGS
GOING FOR YOU,
DETECTIVE?"

GOING GREAT. NOTHING LIKE TRYING TO EARN BACK SENIORITY IN THE BIGGEST POLICE DEPARTMENT IN AMERICA.

LOOK, NOT FOR NOTHING, BUT WHEN SOMEBODY FROM THE ADMINISTRATION WANTS TO MEET WITH A COP IN A LONELY PLACE IT'S USUALLY 'CAUSE THEY WANT THEM TO WEAR A WIRE.

THAT'S NOT HOW I'M LOOKING TO UP MY PAY GRADE.



NOT LOOKING FOR YOU TO RAT ON ANYONE, DETECTIVE. BATMAN'S IN NEW YORK.

I'VE SEEN.

GOOD. BECAUSE WE'D LIKE TO YOU HEAD UP A SPECIAL CRIMES TASK FORCE TO WORK WITH HIM.



YOU FOR REAL? BATMAN'S THE REASON I GOT RUN OUT OF GOTHAM.

THEN YOU UNDERSTAND THESE MASKS HAVE TO BE CONTROLLED.

YOU CAN'T CONTROL CHAOS.

MAYOR VILLANUEVA FEELS DIFFERENTLY. HE THINKS IF WE ENGAGE WITH BATMAN--

AND WHAT DO YOU THINK?

I THINK I'M DEPUTY MAYOR, AND I DO WHAT THE MAYOR ASKS.

AND I THINK THE BEST WAY TO GET OUT OF CAREER PURGATORY IS TO NOT BE ON THE MAYOR'S \$\$\$* LIST, DETECTIVE.

LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING: YOU'RE BETTER OFF ASKING ME TO WEAR A WIRE.

THIS GUY'S NOT BATMAN.

WE CAN MAKE HIM INTO A... A SYMBOL OF THE CITY'S COMMITMENT TO PROTECT PEOPLE.





IS IT THAT
HARD TO BE
A TEAM
PLAYER?

COMMISSIONER
MONTOKA ASKED
ME TO BE A TEAM
PLAYER IN GOTHAM,
AND AS SOON AS
IT SERVED HER
PURPOSE SHE
BOUNCED ME TO
NEW YORK.

I CAN'T SPEAK
TO WHAT HAPPENED IN
GOTHAM, BUT YOU'VE GOT
A CHANCE TO MAKE A
DIFFERENCE HERE.

THAT'S YOUR
PITCH? FOR ME TO
BE A GOOD LITTLE
BOY SCOUT?



MY PITCH
IS FOR YOU
TO DITCH THE
SELF-PITY, AND
BE A GOOD
COP.



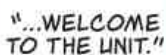
I DON'T
LIKE BATMAN,
I DON'T TRUST
BATMAN...

NOT ASKING
YOU TO DO
EITHER.

...AND IF I'M GOING
TO EVEN CONSIDER BEING
ON THIS TASK FORCE I
WANT TO BRING IN MY OLD
PARTNER FROM GOTHAM.
I NEED SOMEBODY
EXPERIENCED IN DEALING
WITH MASKS.



WHATEVER IT
TAKES, DETECTIVE.
AND ON BEHALF OF
THE MAYOR...



THANKS
FOR
COMING.

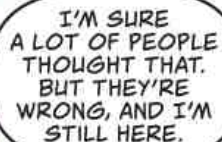
THANKS
FOR THE
INVITE.
BUT...

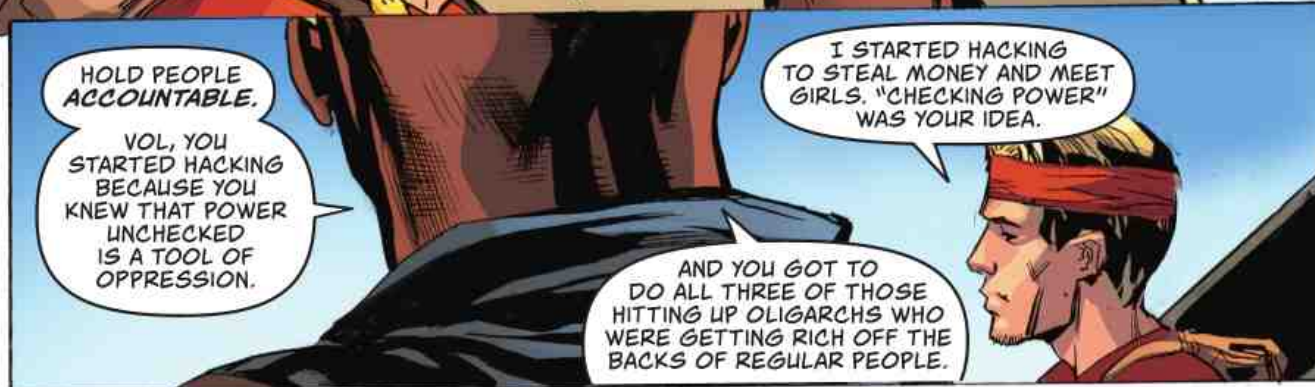


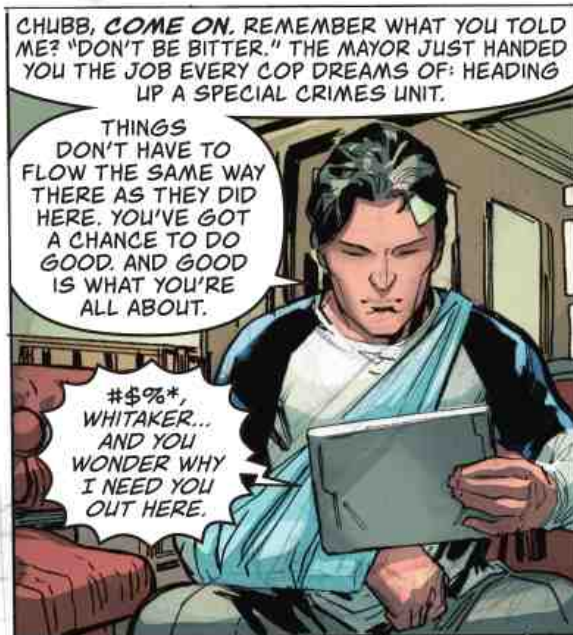
THAT, UH...
THING YOU WERE
HELPING ME WITH
IN GOTHAM.

I'M GONNA KEEP
IT GOING HERE IN
NEW YORK.

I THOUGHT
YOUR NIGHT
JOB WAS, MAYBE,
A TEMPORARY
GIG.









"HE WANTS TO MEET
ON LITTLE ISLAND."

MR.
MAYOR...

BATMAN.
IS IT BATMAN,
OR THE
BATMAN?

I'M NOT
PARTICULAR.

GOOD TO
KNOW.

SO, UH...BATMAN,
MAY I ASK WHAT
EXACTLY YOU'RE
DOING IN MY
CITY?

NOT HERE
TO START TROUBLE.
REGULAR PEOPLE
HAVE TO KNOW THEY
HAVEN'T BEEN
FORGOTTEN.

I'M JUST TRYING
TO BE PART OF THE
SOLUTION.

THE "SOLUTION" NEEDS
TO BE BETTER THAN THE ONE YOU
ALL'VE COME UP WITH IN GOTHAM,
BECAUSE THAT CITY IS A HOT MESS.

IF YOU
THINK I'M
GOING TO
LET THAT
HAPPEN TO
NEW YORK--

NOT MY
INTENTION.

INTENTIONS ARE
DIFFERENT FROM
RESULTS. **RESULTS**
ARE THE ONLY THING
I CARE ABOUT.

YOU'RE HERE.
I CAN'T UNRING
THAT BELL.

BUT I'M A NEW YORKER BORN
AND RAISED. WHEN THE DAY COMES,
I'M GOING TO BE BURIED IN A PLOT
NEXT TO MY FATHER IN THE BRONX.

I CAN DIE,
BUT THIS CITY WILL
SURVIVE. YOU, THE MASKS
WHO ARE COMING
AFTER YOU--YOU ARE **NOT**
GOING TO DESTROY NEW
YORK. I'M GOING TO
MAKE DAMN SURE
OF THAT.

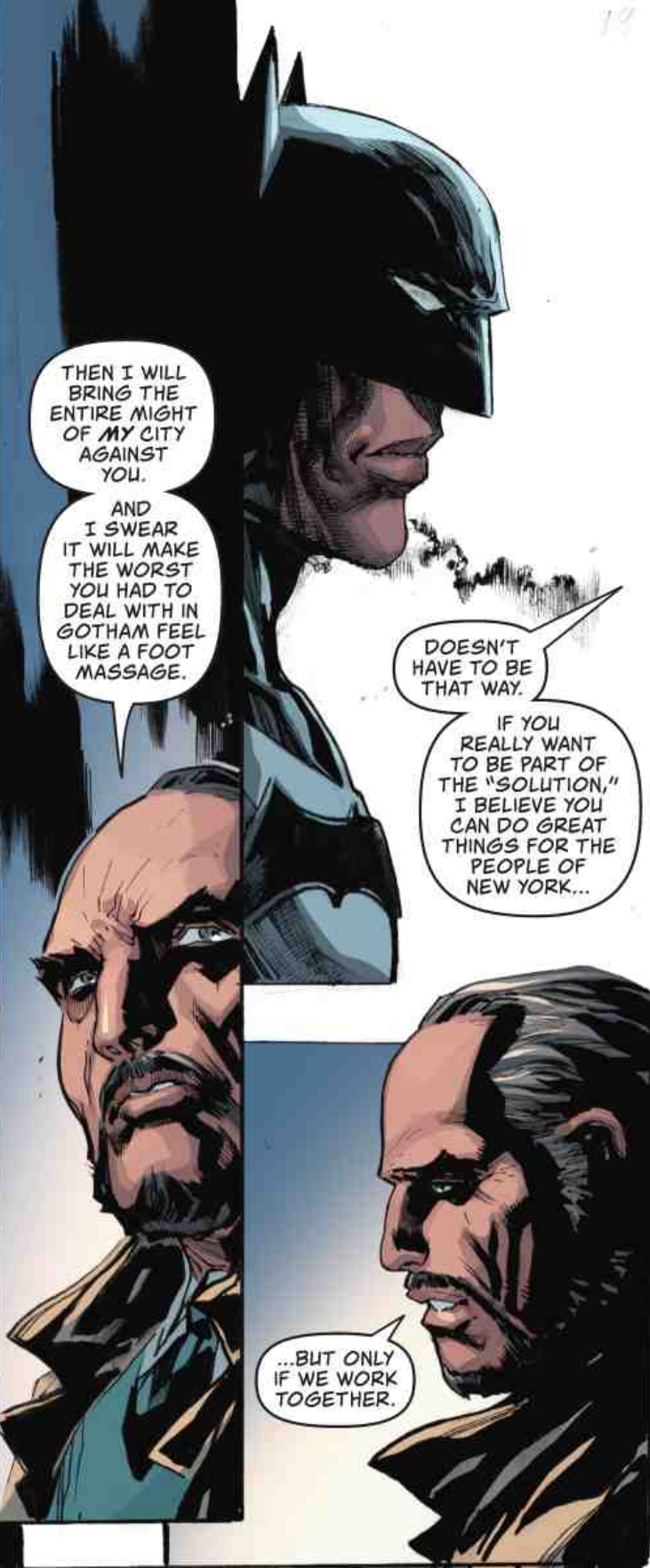
STARTING RIGHT NOW
YOU'RE NO LONGER AN
INDEPENDENT OPERATOR.
YOU'RE PART OF THE
CITY'S SPECIAL CRIMES
TASK FORCE.

I WASN'T
AWARE THE CITY
HAD A SPECIAL
CRIMES TASK
FORCE.

UP UNTIL TODAY,
I WASN'T AWARE THE
CITY **NEEDED** ONE.
CLEARLY IT DOES. AND
YOU'RE ON IT.



AND IF I REFUSE?



THEN I WILL BRING THE ENTIRE MIGHT OF MY CITY AGAINST YOU.

AND I SWEAR IT WILL MAKE THE WORST YOU HAD TO DEAL WITH IN GOTHAM FEEL LIKE A FOOT MASSAGE.

DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THAT WAY.

IF YOU REALLY WANT TO BE PART OF THE "SOLUTION," I BELIEVE YOU CAN DO GREAT THINGS FOR THE PEOPLE OF NEW YORK...

...BUT ONLY IF WE WORK TOGETHER.



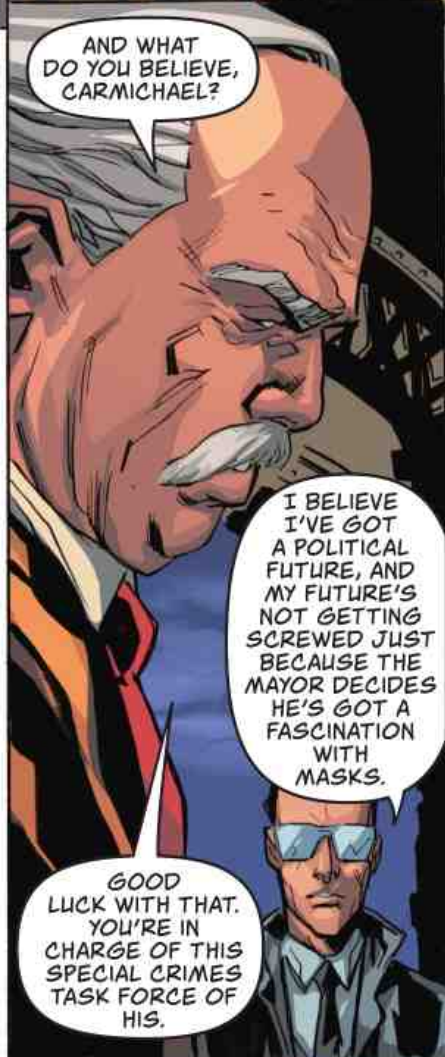
"DID BATMAN TAKE THE MAYOR'S DEAL?"



HE
TOOK
IT.

THE MAYOR...
HE'S NOTHING BUT
A WOKE IDEALIST. HE
THINKS WITH ENOUGH OF
THESE SJWS HE CAN
TRIP INTO ANOTHER
TERM.

VILLANUEVA IS
AN IDEALIST, BUT HE
ACTUALLY BELIEVES
HE'S DOING WHAT'S
RIGHT FOR THE
CITY.



AND WHAT
DO YOU BELIEVE,
CARMICHAEL?

I BELIEVE
I'VE GOT
A POLITICAL
FUTURE, AND
MY FUTURE'S
NOT GETTING
SCREWED JUST
BECAUSE THE
MAYOR DECIDES
HE'S GOT A
FASCINATION
WITH MASKS.

GOOD
LUCK WITH THAT.
YOU'RE IN
CHARGE OF THIS
SPECIAL CRIMES
TASK FORCE OF
HIS.



HEADED UP BY
A FORMER GOTHAM
COP WHO'S GOT NO
LOVE FOR MASKS.

THE WHOLE THING
IS BUILT TO SPILL,
AND WHEN IT DOES
ME AND MY POLITICAL
ASPIRATIONS WILL BE
WATCHING FROM A
SAFE DISTANCE.

YOU
REALLY ARE
ONE HELL OF AN
OPERATOR.



THE
TRAINS RUN ON
TIME IN THIS CITY,
COMMISSIONER.
BEYOND THAT...

YOU'VE
GOT
NOTHING
TO WORRY
ABOUT.



LET'S MAKE
SOMETHING
BEAUTIFUL.

"HAVE YOU
IDENTIFIED
THE VICTIM?"



DEVLIN RUBEL. OLD-MONEY NEW YORK. ONE OF THE CITY'S BIGGEST PHILANTHROPISTS.



PEOPLE HATE THE RICH, BUT...GOD, CHUBB... WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?

THE CRAZINESS... YOUR WORST NIGHTMARES COME TO LIFE...THE SLOW CRAWL TO HELL...



ALL THE %\$#* THE BATMAN ATTRACTS... IT'S COMING, TANAKA.

DC Comics Proudly
Presents

I AM BATMAN

EMPIRE STATE OF MIND PART 1

JOHN RIDLEY WRITER
KEN LASHLEY ARTIST
REX LOKUS COLORS
TROY PETERI LETTERS

OLIVIER COIPEL &
ALEX SINCLAIR COVER
FRANCESCO MATTINA
AND KHARY RANDOLPH
& EMILIO LOPEZ
VARIANT COVERS
ALEXIS FRANKLIN
BLACK HISTORY MONTH
VARIANT COVER

DAVE WIELGOSZ ASSOCIATE EDITOR
BEN ABERNATHY EDITOR
BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE WITH
BILL FINGER

AND IT'S
COMING FOR
US.

NEXT:

THE ART OF
MURDER!

THEY THOUGHT IT WAS HEAVEN. IT TURNED OUT TO BE HELL.

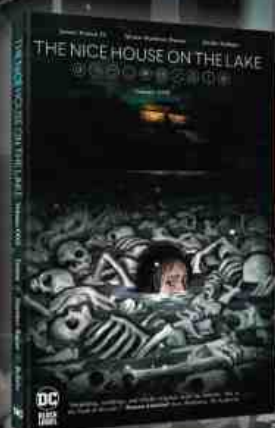
THE NICE HOUSE ON THE LAKE



Volume ONE

"The perfect marriage of masterful writing and exquisite art, get ready to be swept up in a riveting emotional tornado that will, quite literally, blow you away. Surprising, terrifying, and wholly original, make no mistake—this is the book of the year."

—Damon Lindelof (*Lost*, *Watchmen*, *The Leftovers*)



Written by the bestselling author of *Batman*, *The Joker*, and *Something Is Killing the Children*

James Tynion IV

Art by

Álvaro Martínez Bueno



Ages 17+

The first collection of the hit horror series

March

CRISIS

ON INFINITE EARTHS

was the first companywide crossover to make good on its promise of lasting change.
This classic story written by Marv Wolfman and illustrated by George Pérez transformed the DC Universe forever.



WORLDS LIVED, WORLDS DIED— AND COMICS WERE NEVER THE SAME.

All the greatest DC heroes from across time and space join forces to stop an individual more powerful than any they've ever faced—a mysterious being known as the Anti-Monitor who has begun a crusade across the Multiverse to bring about the end of all existence.

As their planets are obliterated one by one, can the heroes of different Earths band together to stop the destruction of all existence? It's going to take the combined powers of two Supermen, the Flash, a new Superboy, Supergirl, Alexander Luthor, and countless others to fight the madness—and not all will survive.



No DC fan should miss out on reading this essential graphic novel that inspired countless other stories including *Infinite Crisis*, *Identity Crisis*, *Final Crisis*, and more.

It was even adapted as a crossover between the DC TV series on The CW, including *Arrow*, *Supergirl*, *The Flash*, and *Black Lightning*.

**GET THIS CLASSIC
AT A COMICS SHOP
NEAR YOU!**

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The Last Kryptonian-DCP

